



## **Church Teaching and Ministry to People with Mental Illness**

### **Church Statements**

#### **Welcomed and Valued: Building Faith Communities of Support and Hope with People with Mental Illness and Their Families**

National Catholic Partnership on Disability, 2009

<http://www.miministry.org/ResourceBinder.pdf>

[Welcomed and Valued: DVD, Resource Manual \(Printed and CD versions\)](#) - The DVD features in depth looks at people with mental illness and how they participate in parish life. (27 minute open captioned DVD) Discussion guide included. The Resource Manual features 90+ pages of information, perspectives and tools to assist in the ministry with people with mental illness. [Available for purchase at <http://www.ncpd.org/resources>]

**NOTE:** The "Welcomed and Valued" DVD and discussion guide is available for loan at the Diocesan AV Resource Center - (585) 328-3210

#### **Affirming the Dignity of the Mentally Ill**

Nebraska Bishops' Statement on Mental Health, January 2005

<http://www.archomaha.org/pastoral/flo/AgingMinistries/pdf/BehavioralIllnessPastoral05.pdf>

#### **Message of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI for the 14th World Day of the Sick**

December 8, 2005

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/messages/sick/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_mes\\_20051208\\_world-day-of-the-sick-2006\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/sick/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20051208_world-day-of-the-sick-2006_en.html)

#### **Mentally Ill Are Also Made in God's Image**

Address of Pope John Paul II at a conference sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health-Care Workers, November 30, 1996

<http://www.catholic.org.tw/vntaiwan/pope/health.htm>

### **Ministering to Individuals with Mental Illness**

#### ***National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD)***

[www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org)

415 Michigan Avenue, N.E. Suite 240, Washington, DC 20017

(202) 529-2933, (202) 529-2934 (tty)

<http://www.ncpd.org/ministries-programs/specific/mentalillness#Resources>

The National Catholic Partnership on Disability coordinates the activities of the Roman Catholic Church in this area of ministry.

*Source: Diocesan Public Policy Committee, Rochester, NY, September, 2011*

### ***Pathways to Promise: Ministry and Mental Illness***

<http://www.pathways2promise.org/>

Pathways to Promise is an interfaith cooperative of many faith groups that provides assistance and acts as a resource center which offers liturgical and educational materials, program models, caring ministry with people experiencing a mental illness and their families.

The resources are used by people at all levels of faith group structures from local congregations to regional and national staff. The website is intended for clergy, interested laity, people with mental illness and their families, friends and supporters and mental health professionals interested in working with the faith community.

### ***National Alliance on Mental Illness [NAMI] FaithNet***

<http://www.nami.org/namifaithnet>

NAMI FaithNet is a network composed of members and friends of NAMI. It was established for the purposes of (1) facilitating the development within the faith community of a non-threatening, supportive environment for those with mental illness and their families, (2) pointing out the value of one's spirituality in the recovery process from mental illness and the need for spiritual strength for those who are caretakers, (3) educating clergy and faith communities concerning mental illness and (4) encouraging advocacy of the faith community to bring about hope and help for all who are affected by mental illness. NAMI FaithNet respects all religious beliefs.

### ***Mental Health Ministries***

<http://www.mentalhealthministries.net/>

The mission of Mental Health Ministries is to provide educational resources to help erase the stigma of mental illness in our faith communities and help congregations become caring congregations for persons living with a mental illness and their families. User friendly media and print resource that can be adapted to the unique needs of each congregation are available on the website. Mental Health Ministries also collaborates with faith communities, advocacy groups, community organizations and mental health professionals to lift up the importance of using a person's faith and spirituality as part of the overall treatment and recovery process.